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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|---------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/617,039 | 07/11/2003 | Sreenath GovindaRaju Meda | CSCO-032/7715 | 3062 |
| 26392 | 7590 | 09/30/2004 | EXAMINER | |
| NARENDRA R. THAPPETA LANDON & STARK ASSOCIATES, ONE CRYSTAL PARK SUITE 210, 2011 CRYSTAL DRIVE ARLINGTON, VA 22202 | | | MACE, BRAD THOMAS | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 2663 | |

DATE MAILED: 09/30/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/617,039

Applicant(s)

MEDA, SREENATH
GOVINDARAJU

Examiner

Brad T. Mace

Art Unit

2663

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☒ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This application is in condition for allowance except for the following formal matters:

Specification

2. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it is unclear as to what EXP means. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: "325-335" should be "325, 330, and 335", on line 2 of pg. 11. "310-315" should be "310 and 315", on line 4 of pg. 11. "365-380" should be "365, 370 375, and 380" on line 15 of pg. 11. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

4. Claims 1, 5, 9, 13, and 17 are objected to because of the following informalities: It is not clearly stated in the claims that EXP is the experimental bit field (3-bits) in the MPLS protocol on line 4 of claim, on line 6 of claim 5, on line 4 of claim 9, on line 4 of claim 13, and on line 5 of claim 17. In claim 5 on line 2, "device" should be placed between "(MPLS)" and "to". Appropriate correction is required.

5. Prosecution on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

6. A shortened statutory period for reply to this action is set to expire **TWO MONTHS** from the mailing date of this letter.

Allowable Subject Matter

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7. Claims 1-22 are allowed.

8. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art fails to teach or make obvious the steps of:

receiving a configuration data indentifying a group of multi-labeled packets and a corresponding desired EXP value for a stack entry at a low level for said group of multi-labeled packets

considered in combination with other steps recited in claims 1, 5, 9, 13, and 17. It is noted that in the closest prior art, Ueno discloses a multi-labeled packet that includes a stack of label entries, where each label comprises an experimental bit field. The experimental bit field is used to denote a pointer value, which represents at which layer from the top the initial position of the label stack is located. However, Ueno fails to disclose or render obvious the above limitations as claimed.

9. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

*Ueno discloses a multi-labeled packet that includes a stack of label entries,

where each label comprises an experimental bit field. The experimental bit field is used to denote a pointer value, which represents at which layer from the top the initial position of the label stack is located.

*Ganti et al. discloses a label distribution protocol supporting multiple classes of service in a multi protocol label switching (MPLS) network.

*Kuhl et al. discloses a system and method for mapping quality of service levels between MPLS and ATM connections in a network element.

*Yamauchi discloses an MPLS-VPN service network.

*Akahane et al. discloses a method of transferring packets and router device therefor.

*Chen et al. discloses a method of sending data packets through a multiple protocol label switching MPLS network, and a MPLS network.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brad T. Mace whose telephone number is (571) 272-3128. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday -Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chau Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-3126. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

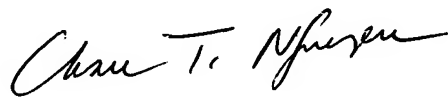
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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

btm

Brad T. Mace
Examiner
Art Unit 2663

btm
September 27, 2004


CHAU NGUYEN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600